

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 OTTAWA 03948 092204Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
TRSE-00 OMB-01 /067 W
-----018876 101308Z /44

R 092157Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8322
INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMCONSUL TORONTO
POUCH ALL OTHER CANADIAN POSTS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE OTTAWA 03948

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT, CA
SUBJECT: CONSERVATIVES SLIP IN LATEST GALLUP POLL

REF: OTTAWA 2871

1. LATEST CANADIAN GALLUP POLL SHOWS UPSWING IN SUPPORT FOR NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY (NDP), LARGELY AT EXPENSE OF PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVES (PC), WITH LIBERAL STRENGTH HOLDING NEARLY CONSTANT. RESULTS OF SURVEY, CONDUCTED IN EARLY JULY, WERE CARRIED IN AUGUST 9 MEDIA. POLL FOUND NDP FAVORED BY 19 PERCENT OF DECIDED VOTERS, WHILE LIBERALS RETAINED ALLEGIANCE OF 42 PERCENT (A DROP OF ONE PERCENT FROM MAY POLL), AND PC SLIPPED TO 34 PERCENT OF THOSE QUERIED. CONSERVATIVES THUS CONTINUED STEADY SLIDE SINCE STUNNING POLL OF LAST APRIL WHEN THEY RAN EVEN WITH LIBERALS AT 41 PERCENT EACH. FOR NDP THIS REPRESENTS HIGHEST TALLY SINCE JULY 1974 ELECTION, AND LIBERALS' EIGHT-POINT LEAD OVER PC EQUALS SPREAD THEY ENJOYED IN 1974. LIBERALS ARE ALSO TAKING HEART FROM BELIEF THAT THEY ARE MORE LIKELY THAN PC TO DRAW VOTES FROM NDP DURING ELECTION
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 OTTAWA 03948 092204Z

CAMPAIGN.

2. ONLY OMINOUS NOTE FOR LIBERALS IS REPORTED SLIGHT DROP IN STRATEGIC ONTARIO, WHICH ACCOUNTS FOR ONE-THIRD OF HOUSE OF COMMONS SEATS. MOREOVER, 31 PERCENT OF VOTERS IN NATION AT LARGE REMAIN UNDECIDED. JULY POLL DOES NOT REFLECT PUBLIC REACTION TO PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU'S AUGUST

1 NATIONAL ADDRESS (OTTAWA 3857), AND IT IS NOT CLEAR
WHETHER LIBERAL IMAGE WILL BE STRENGTHENED BY HASTY TELE-
VISED MESSAGE WHICH LEFT IMPRESSION OF POOR COORDINATION
WITHIN TRUDEAU GOVERNMENT AND COMPOUNDED UNCERTAINTY OVER
LIKELY TIMING OF GENERAL ELECTIONS. STANDINGS ALSO WILL BE
INFLUENCED BY DEBATE JUST GETTING UNDERWAY IN EARNEST ON
CONTROVERSIAL CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ACT PROPOSED BY
PRIME MINISTER. FOR THEIR PART, CONSERVATIVES
HOPE TO GENERATE NEW MOMENTUM AT SPECIAL NATIONAL CAUCUS
OF MPS AND OTHER PARTY OFFICIALS PLANNED FOR AUGUST 13-14
IN OTTAWA "TO DISCUSS THE PARTY'S POSITION ON MAJOR ISSUES
FACING THE COUNTRY."

3. LIBERALS WILL HAVE TO TAKE IMPACT OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS
INTO ACCOUNT IN REACHING FINAL DECISION ON FALL ELECTIONS.
SOME OBSERVERS HAVE BEEN SAYING SINCE TRUDEAU SPEECH THAT
ODDS WERE STILL FIFTY-FIFTY THAT LATE FALL ELECTION MIGHT
BE CALLED; LATEST POLL RESULTS MAY marginally INCREASE THAT
PROBABILITY. ENDERS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL PARTIES, PUBLIC OPINION POLLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978OTTAWA03948
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780327-0794
Format: TEL
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780882/aaaacqyk.tel
Line Count: 81
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f1e06d66-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 OTTAWA 2871
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1792302
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONSERVATIVES SLIP IN LATEST GALLUP POLL
TAGS: PINT, CA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f1e06d66-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014